

Appln. No. 10/812,067
Preliminary Amendment submitted May 2, 2005

PATENT
Customer No. 22,858
Attorney Docket No. 02418.0883

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A racket for ball games including a frame (4) having a racket head (6) and a handle portion (40) connected thereto and being formed of a frame profile, wherein the racket head (6) defines a stringing plane and the frame profile comprises at least one opening (42) extending through the frame profile and essentially perpendicular with respect to the stringing plane of the racket (2).
2. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 1, wherein the frame (4) comprises a plurality of through holes lying essentially in the stringing plane for passing through them the individual strings of the stringing.
3. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least two openings (42) are provided essentially symmetrical with respect to a the longitudinal axis of the racket (2).
4. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein the at least one opening (42) is provided in the area between two o'clock and four o'clock ~~and/or~~ or between eight o'clock and ten o'clock on the racket head (6).

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5. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the at least one opening (12) is provided at about three o'clock ~~and/or or~~ about nine o'clock on the racket head (6).

6. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, wherein the at least one opening (12) is formed as a through hole.

7. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 6, wherein the through hole is cylindrical, ~~preferably circular cylindrical, elliptical or rectangular cylindrical~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 7, wherein the diameter (D) of the through hole ranges between 2 mm and 8 mm, ~~preferably between 3 mm and 6 mm~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, wherein the at least one opening (12) is formed by two opposite holes (12a) in the frame profile.

10. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 9, wherein each of the holes (12a) is essentially trough-shaped when it is being viewed in the direction of the stringing plane.

11. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein the length (L) of each of the holes (12a) along the frame profile ranges between 1 mm and 10 mm, ~~preferably between 3 mm and 7 mm~~.

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12. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 9 to 44~~, wherein each of the holes (12a) has a depth (T) corresponding to at least the wall thickness of the frame profile and extending maximally up to a groove (20) for receiving a head band.

13. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 42~~, wherein the at least one opening (12) comprises an essentially tubular insert (14) ~~in order to~~ useful for closing the frame profile towards the interior.

14. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 43~~, wherein the frame profile comprises one or more strengthening layer(s) in the area around the at least one opening (12).

15. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 14, wherein the strengthening layer is arranged at an angle of $\pm 45^\circ$ with respect to the direction of the frame ~~comprises and is woven materials made of~~ with a material selected from the group consisting of carbon fiber, glass or aramid and/or a unidirectional prepreg, ~~and is arranged at an angle of $\pm 45^\circ$ with respect to the direction of the frame.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 45~~, wherein in the area of the opening (12) at least one trough-shaped depression (18) is formed in the frame profile.

17. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 16, wherein two opposite trough-shaped depressions (18) are formed at each opening (12).

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18. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a racket, ~~in particular according to claims 1 to 17~~, comprising the following steps:

(a) forming a frame (4) ~~consisting of~~ comprising a frame profile, ~~and comprising a racket head (6) and a handle portion (10) connected thereto to the frame;~~
and

(b) providing at least one opening (12) extending through the frame profile and oriented essentially perpendicular with respect to a stringing plane formed by the racket head (6).

19. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 18, wherein at least two openings (12) are provided essentially symmetrical with respect to ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of the racket (2).

20. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein the at least one opening (12) is drilled, milled or sawed into the frame profile.

21. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 18 ~~to 20~~, wherein an essentially tubular insert (14) is introduced in the at least one opening (12) in order to close the frame profile towards the interior.

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 18 ~~to 21~~, wherein at least one ~~or more~~ strengthening layer(s) ~~is/are~~ provided in the area around the at least one opening when the frame profile is formed.

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23. (New) The racket according to claim 1, wherein at least one opening is provided in the area between eight o'clock and ten o'clock on the racket head.

24. (New) The racket according to claim 1, wherein the at least one opening is provided at about nine o'clock on the racket head (6).

25. (New) The racket according to claim 8, wherein the diameter (D) of the through hole ranges between 3 mm and 6 mm.

26. (New) The racket according to claim 11, wherein the length (L) of each of the holes along the frame profile ranges between 3 mm and 7 mm.

27. (New) The racket according to claim 7, wherein the through hole is circular cylindrical, elliptical or rectangular cylindrical.